DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 128 823 CS 202 939

TITLE Abstracts of Suburban Press Research Series Papers Produced by the Suburban Press Research Center from July 1966 to February 1973. Suburban Press Research Series No. 14.

INSTITUTION Northern Illinois Univ., De Kalb. Suburban Press Research Center.

PUB DATE Oct 74

NOTE 16p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Abstracts; *Annotated Bibliographies; Higher Education; *Media Research; News Media; *Newspapers; *News Reporting; Speeches; Suburban Environment; *Suburbs

ABSTRACT

Abstracts of 13 research investigations, speeches, and bibliographic resources, collected by the Suburban Press Research Center, are provided in this paper. Topics of discussion include the following aspects of the suburban press: pretrial coverage, characteristics of communities served by suburban newspapers, science news coverage, the role of information in metropolitan and suburban decision making concerning public services, resources valuable to the study of the suburban press, overlapping jurisdiction in suburban reporting, picture editing, human relations news, reporting about the pollution problem, school news in the community newspaper, the communication barrier between cities and suburbs, family liberation as it relates to the news, and the trend toward suburban self-sufficiency. (KS)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED128823

Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Suburban Press Research Center

Suburban Press Research Series No. 14, October 1974

Abstracts of Suburban Press Research Series papers produced by the Suburban Press Research Center from July 1966 to February 1973.

Produced by the Suburban
Press Research Center

Richard A. Schreiber, Ph.D.
Acting Coordinator

CS 202 939

Northern Illinois University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Copies of the original papers abstracted here may be obtained by sending $1.00 for each paper to:

Dr. Richard A. Schreiber
Acting Coordinator
Suburban Press Research Center
Journalism Department
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

Please identify the paper you want by series number, title, and author.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 1, July, 1966

PRETRIAL COVERAGE IN SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS

By Dr. Granville Price

This study undertakes to describe pretrial coverage of suburban newspapers, not to judge it.

The study was made by members of the Northern Illinois University Law of the Press class, based on December, 1965, and January, 1966 issues of 46 weekly and semiweekly suburban newspapers.

Elements of coverage agreed upon paralleled a 1965 study made by John B. Adams and John Jennrich at the University of North Carolina.

Following are elements studied:

Confessions or admissions.
Records of prior convictions.
Statements attributing guilt or innocence.
Identifying tags.
Derogatory words.
Libelous headlines.
Locale of offense.
Pictures of the accused.

Although the papers studied devoted a small proportion of news to pretrial coverage, they showed high amounts of "prejudicial" attributes. Expansions made by these papers over the daily coverage contained the questionable material. Suburbans seem more attracted to hard-hitting news than country weeklies, but may not do the reporting as well as it should be done. Few details were attributed to attorneys, and thus they seem to have little influence on pretrial bias.

The study offers several suggestions for the improvement of the suburban papers.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 2, October, 1966

THE SUBURBAN PRESS AND ITS COMMUNITIES

By Dr. Granville Price

This report is based on response to a questionnaire sent to Suburban Press Foundation publishers in the summer of 1966.

Questions dealt with the publication situations of the groups that are members of the Foundation, as well as with the communities for whom they publish. The report is incomplete because not all Foundation members replied.

Statistics are given on the 20 publishing groups that replied and on the 26 which did not.

Topics dealt with in the questionnaire include:

Communities included in the circulation areas of the suburbans.
A description of the suburban community.
Where people in the suburbs work.
Family income of suburbanites.
Population of circulation areas.
Strongest competition.
Publication of shoppers by suburban publishers.
Files kept and awards received.
Problems with which the Suburban Press Research Center might help.

Findings include: Suburban circulation is larger than that of community papers. The suburban problem of overlapping government and taxing units is also a problem for suburban papers. Most suburbs are residential, but many residents work nearby as well as in the central city. Family income of Suburban Press Foundation communities generally is higher than that of most American communities. Generally, central-city dailies are more competitive than shoppers, but one third of the suburban papers questioned publish their own shoppers. Papers of the Suburban Press Foundation have received many awards and citations.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 3, January, 1967

SCIENCE NEWS IN THE SUBURBAN PRESS

By Jerome M. Butler

Covers discoveries in medicine, industry, pure science and related fields. Suburbia relies on science's advancements to solve increasing suburban problems (i.e., diseases, new resources, land development, drug abuse, pollution, etc.).

Problems with science news coverage:

How to cover science news to interest general public.
Where to obtain information and examples of such.
Lack of highly qualified science writers.
Lack of balanced coverage so far as science is concerned.
How to stay away from sensationalism or technical, hard-to-comprehend stories; that is, simplicity with depth.

Other topics covered:

Discussion of Earl Ubell, journalist noted for science writing.

Brief history of science writing within the past three decades.

Summary of David Warren Burkett's book Writing Science News for the Mass Media. (Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1965)

Effects of science news coverage on readers and society as a whole; the age of computerized science information as a revolution in the near future.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 4, June, 1967

THE NEWS IN GOVERNMENTAL OVERLAP

by Dr. Granville Price

I. Role of Information in Decision Making
   Public awareness of choices, of consequences of inaction.
   Communicator's awareness of clientele (the public).
   Content: to reduce uncertainty in both parties; to help get attention, understanding, acceptance; to get relevant information

II. Governmental Overlap
   Taxing bodies in counties.
   Individual local governmental units in metro areas.
   School districts, special districts.
   Municipalities, counties, townships.

III. Metropolitan Decision Making
   Problems: Neighboring communities duplicate efforts, waste separate provisions and facilities; high-value residential areas have excess, while less well-to-do units do without.
   Alternatives: New units of government; special districts to extract more revenue from same base; extension of authority within city to tap more sources of revenue; steps toward interdependence.
   Re-examination: Set goals and standards; use news to backstop leaders in this process; anticipate needs and catalog alternatives for citizens through news.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 5, September, 1967

SUBURBAN PRESS RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Katherine Price Memorial

This is a list of resource material found valuable by the Suburban Press Research Center at the Journalism Department of Northern Illinois University in September, 1967. Annotations are included to help indicate the usefulness of each book.

More books are on order and supplements to the list will be issued.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 6, February, 1968

QUESTIONS FOR NEWS OF SUBURBAN GOVERNMENT

by Dr. Granville Price

This research paper tends to clarify the confusion brought about by overlapping jurisdiction and the intangibility of the processes involved in suburban reporting.

It suggests lines of inquiry to develop, many of which are not in the traditional reporting texts or in the repertory of reporters because the situations are new in suburbia. It is hoped that suburban reporting would prepare local opinion for action and make it possible for the suburbanites to make logical choices.

Questions intended to sharpen a reporter's approach to facilitate public decision are found under the following headings:

In General
Political
Expenditures
Planning and Zoning
Special Districts
Regional Services

Books for research are listed in a selected bibliography.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 7, March, 1969

PICTURE EDITING

by Dr. Hallie J. Hamilton

Use of pictures as opposed to photography (the making and/or taking of pictures). The purpose of picture editing is to select, crop, size and position pictures for effectiveness and significance.

Selection
- Story-telling value:
  - Content - What does it say?
  - Interest - Is it important to readers?
- Reproductive value:
  - Ability to survive printing process.
  - Expect to lose 10-20 per cent of detail and tone.
- Aesthetic value:
  - Composition.
  - Balance.

Examples
- Head shots:
  - Crop - Isolate purpose, achieve better composition, increase impact.
  - Enlarge (blow up to fit space).
- Posed shots:
  - Imagination for effectiveness, divide or isolate some shots for variety.
- Action shots:
  - Posed, stopped, peak, blurred, total blurred.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 8, August, 1969

NEWS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

by Robert Banser, Jr.

This paper is concerned with the suburban papers' role in increasing communication across racial lines to detroy stereotypes, to halt polarization, and distrust and hostility and create common ground for efforts toward public order and social justice.

An analysis of some 200 Suburban Press Foundation papers' reporting of race relations is given under the following headings:

Violence
Speakers
Honors
Group news
Economic problems
Goodwill
Head Start
Women's
Housing
Negro history and bilingual education
School integration
Editorials
Human stories

This study shows that some suburban papers are accepting the challenge of improving race relations, but that more need to join in the effort.

A list of suggestions for improving race relations is given in a checklist section.

A bibliography of documents used in writing the report is included.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 9, January, 1970

A DIRTY STORY--UNDER-REPORTED

by Dr. Granville Price

This paper suggests that suburban newspapers should be covering the pollution story much more thoroughly; and that this coverage should come from research, probing, interviewing, etc., not merely beat reporting.

The following problems are examined:

Air - transportation, industry, medical.

Water

The paper shows what various suburban newspapers reported in the following areas:

Air
Water
Garbage

A partial bibliography is included.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 10, May, 1970

SERVING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS WITH SCHOOL NEWS

by Dr. Granville Price

School news affects students, administrators, board members, staff and most of all, the public that pays for the schools, sends their children to them, and needs information about them.

This paper was an address to the Illinois Chapter, National School Public Relations Assn., and makes suggestions to improve school news coverage.

Two-way function:
- Explain school to the people.
- Explain the people to the school (i.e., help the schools become aware of obstacles to good policy and projects).

Topics discussed include:
- Solutions to the dangers of advocacy news.
- Importance of school news.
- Suggestions for use of school personnel to help newspaper editors prepare:
  - News releases and anticipate news.
  - Up-to-date calendars of activities.
  - Newsletters, notices of meetings and activities of school groups.
  - List of clubs, curriculum and related activities.
  - Information on day-to-day curriculum.
  - Tours of school and administration facilities.
  - Biographical information on teachers and administration personnel.
  - Copies of board meeting communications and financial reports.

Suburban Press Research Series No. 11, September, 1970

TEAR DOWN THE FENCE

by Patricia Mulcrone and Dr. Granville Price

"The fence" is the communication barrier between cities and suburbs. The role of newspapers is to tear down this fence by reporting what is on both sides and by promoting gates of communication through objective, in-depth reporting.

The purpose of this paper is to study and note possibilities to improve the coverage of suburban problems under the following broad catagories:

Morality:
- Sex education.
- Illegitimacy and abortion.
- Nudity and pornography.
- Cheating and stealing (and the value of money).
- Business deals.
- Racism.

Financial Quicksand:
- Home finances and budgets.
- Consumer protection from fraud.
- Employment.
- Inflation and economy.
- Vacations.
- Community planning.

Environment:
- Pollution, ecology, recycling, flood control, sewage treatment and water reclamation.
- Population control.
- Zoning and planning.

Dissent:
- Campus protests.
- Vandalism and other crimes.
- Students and educational rights.
- Underground press.
- Drug abuse.
- Suicide.

(Extensive bibliography is included.)

Suburban Press Research Series No. 12, January, 1971

FAMILY LIBERATION

by Dr. Granville Price

In this paper the problems of the family in the 1960s are discussed and related to news. An inevitable conclusion from the research is that change is upon us and this process of change is painful and confusing.

News has traditionally supported established mores and customs. But news must also deal with factors changing social structure. The purpose of the paper is to catalog news that should be covered in addition to the tradition-supporting news. The topics discussed are:

Family structure
Women's Liberation
Children
Mental health
Therapy
Food
Furnishings

Suburban Press Research Series No. 13, February, 1973

SUBURBS--WHERE THE ACTION IS

by Charles E. Hayes

This paper is the text of a speech by Charles E. Hayes, editor and publisher, Paddock Publications, given to the Northern Illinois professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi on Jan. 17, 1973.

Paddock undertook a massive research and redevelopment program to make a comeback in the Chicago northwest suburbs and absorb the challenging Field Enterprises' papers.

The paper discusses the trend of the suburbs becoming self-contained and self-sufficient. This is important in determining the future direction and development of newspaper journalism, since the action today is in the suburbs, Hayes contends.

Hayes cites the three major functions of today's newspaper as local news, understanding the news and reader service.

A question and answer section is included.